

December 20, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It appears that winter has arrived in Maine with all the snow we have on the ground! The students are very excited about getting outside to enjoy the winter wonderland. We look forward to a fun filled season with students enjoying the great outdoors as much as possible during the next few months.

Please be aware of a few rules for students who would like to play in the snow on the playground:

- We do have swing sets but they are off the plowed area of the playground. If a student would to swing, they should wear boots. This will prevent their socks and shoes from becoming wet and therefore your child's feet will remain relatively warm for the day.
- If your child would like to play in the snow or use the sleds, please have them wear snow pants, boots, hats, and gloves etc.
- Please remind your child that throwing snow is not allowed here at Margaret Chase Smith School. Many injuries have occurred in the past due to throwing snow.
- If the temperature is 10 degree including the wind chill factor, students will be expected to go outside for recess. Therefore, I highly recommend that all students dress warmly. You may want to pack an extra pair of *dry socks* in your child's backpack. This would prevent your child from having cold wet feet and you from possibly making a trip to school to deliver dry socks for your child.

During the month of December and January, the students will be given a reading test by their classroom teacher. The test is the Fountas & Pinnell assessment. The information from the results will help the teachers in their lessons, to develop small reading groups and to make sure students are reading the right books and books that are little challenging for each student.

We have had a successful food drive. We collected and donated over 100 non-perishable items to a local charity. The children did a terrific job giving back to the community. The MCSS pantry is now happening. If you would like to donate food (for example, soup, sauces, pasta, pre-packaged items, tuna, peanut butter, crackers, cereal, etc.) it can be brought to the office.

As the 2016 year comes to an end, the faculty at Margaret Chase Smith School would like to thank parents for your generous participation in our school, events, and activities.

The greatest gift you, as a parent, have is your child. The greatest gift your child has is you. I sincerely hope that your holiday season will be a joyous one due to an understanding and

loving parent – child relationship. Your child is important to us, and we ask you to keep them well and safe so they can return to us after the holidays.

Important Dates to Remember:

- December 21st – Last full day of school before the Holiday Break
- December 22nd – January 1st: No school (Holiday Break)
- January 2nd: School Resumes
- February 1st: Early Release Day (students will be dismissed at 11:45 a.m.)

Sincerely,

Kathleen F.S Harvey, Principal